

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of claims

- 1-26. (Cancelled)
27. (New) A suturing instrument, comprising:
an elongate body comprising a longitudinal axis and a distal end;
a distal tip engaged with the distal end of the elongate body, wherein the distal tip is rotatable axially about the longitudinal axis of the elongate body;
a first needle disposed within the distal tip; and
needle deployment device disposed within the distal tip, wherein the needle deployment device drives the first needle generally out of the distal tip.
28. (New) The suturing instrument of claim 27, wherein the needle deployment device drives the first needle into tissue and towards the longitudinal axis of the elongate body.
29. (New) The suturing instrument of claim 27, wherein the distal tip comprises at least one rotation pocket and the elongate body comprises at least one depression, the depression slidably engaging the rotation pocket of the distal tip, allowing the distal tip to rotate about the longitudinal axis of the elongate body.
30. (New) The suturing instrument of claim 27, further comprising a second needle disposed within the distal tip and driven by the needle deployment device generally out of the distal tip.
31. (New) The suturing instrument of claim 30, wherein the second needle is driven out of the distal tip in a direction opposite the first needle with respect to the longitudinal axis of the elongate body.
32. (New) The suturing instrument of claim 27, further comprising a needle catch configured to receive at least a portion of the first needle.

33. (New) The suturing instrument of claim 30, further comprising a needle catch configured to receive at least a portion of the second needle.
34. (New) The suturing instrument of claim 27, further comprising a suture attached to the first needle.
35. (New) The suturing instrument of claim 30, further comprising a suture attached to the first needle and the second needle.
36. (New) A method of suturing an opening in a bodily tissue, the method comprising the steps of:
 - providing a suturing instrument comprising:
 - an elongate body comprising a longitudinal axis and a distal end, and
 - a distal tip engaged with the distal end of the elongate body, the distal tip rotatable axially about the longitudinal axis of the elongate body;
 - inserting the distal tip through an opening in an outer tissue layer and through the opening in the bodily tissue;
 - inserting a first needle into the tissue through the distal tip;
 - deploying the first needle generally outward relative to the longitudinal axis of the elongate body;
 - moving the first needle through the tissue; and
 - catching at least a portion of the first needle in a needle catch.
37. (New) The method of claim 36, further comprising the step of withdrawing the needle catch.
38. (New) The method of claim 37, wherein the step of withdrawing the needle catch includes withdrawing the needle catch through the opening in the outer tissue layer.
39. (New) The method of claim 36, further comprising the step of inserting a second needle into the bodily tissue through the distal tip.
40. (New) The method of claim 39, further comprising the steps of:

deploying the second needle generally outward relative to the longitudinal axis of the elongate body;

moving the second needle through the tissue; and

catching at least a portion of the second needle in the needle catch.

41. (New) The method of claim 40, further comprising the step of withdrawing the needle catch.

42. (New) The method of claim 41, wherein the step of withdrawing the needle catch includes withdrawing the needle catch through the opening in the outer tissue layer.

43. (New) The method of claim 41, wherein the step of withdrawing the needle catch forms a loop of suture material through generally opposing portions of the opening in the bodily tissue.